22nd February 1955]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) With the financial assistance from the Government of India, the Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society has appointed Handloom Cloth Marketing Officers at Colombo, Baghdad, Rangoon and Singapore. These officers will ascertain and inform the Indian handloom cloth producers the needs and tastes of the Middle East and Far East countries so that the producers may manufacture goods which will find ready markets in those countries. Further these officers are opening sales depots at Colombo, Aden, Rangoon, Singapore, Bangkok, Chittagong and Karachi for exhibition and sale of handloom cloth manufactured by co-operative and non-co-operative agencies in India. Steps are also being taken for the grant of a rebate of one anna in the rupee on sales of handloom cloth for export to foreign countries.

(1) Under the Cess Fund Scheme for the development of internal markets for the handloom cloth produced by the weavers' co-operative societies in this State, seventy-eight retail sales depots in the rural and semi-urban areas in this State and also two retail depots, one at Delhi and the other at Vijayavada, and four Central Depots for securing cloth produced by the weavers' societies and for feeding the retail depots have been opened. One motor van to serve as mobile sales shop for sale of cloth at the door to consumers will shortly be put on the road. More retail depots in this State and in other States will be opened and more mobile sales shops will be put on the road.

(2) To expedite sales of handloom cloth, a rebate of As. 1–6 in the rupee is allowed to consumers on sales of handloom cloth made by weavers' co-operative socities and depots run by the State Society and of one anna in the rupee on sales made by consumers' co-operative societies and fair price shops run by private dealers. The Government have removed the levy of sales tax on handloom cloth to promote sales."

Andhras in the Secretariat departments.

* 836 Q.—SRI V. BALAKISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of Andhras in the Departments of the Secretariat?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The number of Andhras in the Department of the Secretariat is six as showed below :—

Superintendent—One.

Upper Division Clerks—Two.

Lower Division Clerks—Two (under emergency provision).

Peon—One."